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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 5 October 1950

SUBJECT 1. 5th Volkspolizei Bereitschaft in Weissenfels
25X1A 2. Volkspolizei to be Reorganized as a Military Force

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DATE OF INFO. Early July 1950

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

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1. The 5th VP Bereitschaft was stationed in Weissenfels (M 52/J 99). Its officers included Oberpolizeirat Nickel, (fnu), CO; Kommissar Petrik, (fnu), 1st Dpty CO and PK-Leiter; olizeirat Ordorf, (fnu), 2nd Dpty CO and director of training, allegedly a former battalion commander and wearer of the oak leaf cluster of the Iron Cross; Oberpolizeirat Nikhailov, (fnu), Soviet liaison officer; Oberkommissar Magirla, (fnu), operations officer; Kommissar Langner, (fnu), assistant operations officer; Oberkommissar Just, (fnu), administrative officer; Oberkommissar Prosch, (fnu), party secretary; Oberkommissar Rothfeld, (fnu), FDJ secretary; Kommissar Loebner, (fnu), athletic secretary; Polizeirat Hartmann, (fnu), liaison officer to the Main Administration for Training (HVA), Polizeirat Spallek, (fnu), CO of 1st Kommando; Kommissar Jecht, (fnu), Dpty CO of 1st Kommando and PK-Leiter; Kommissar Schumann, (fnu), operations officer of 1st Kommando; Kommissar Kirchhoff, (fnu), training officer of 1st Kommando, an ex-lieutenant; Kommissar Fuhrmann, (fnu), CO of 2nd Kommando; Kommissar Fachtke, (fnu), Dpty CO of 2nd Kommando and PK-Leiter; Polizeimeister Gottschalk, (fnu), operations officer of 2nd Kommando; Kommissar Voigt, (fnu), chief of training of 2nd Kommando; Polizeirat Meisel, (fnu), CO of 3rd Kommando; Kommissar Sattler, (fnu), Dpty CO of 3rd Kommando and PK-Leiter; and Kommissar Kersten, (fnu), operations officer of 3rd Kommando. (1)
2. Training of VP drivers was conducted at an increased rate at the VP posts of Weissenfels, Apolda (M 52/J 67) and Weimar (M 52/J 57). As they were short of driving instructors the VP units were forced to hire civilian instructors. It was rumored that the motor vehicle equipment of the VP would soon be considerably increased. (2)
3. The number of motor vehicles at the VP post in Weissenfels was increased in July 1950 and new motor vehicle numbers were issued. Motorcycles

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4. Within two or three months the organization and nomenclature of the Volkspolizei **allegedly will** be changed to conform with the former German Armed Forces. It is said that an infantry regiment, allegedly with the numerical designation 5, will be activated in Weissenfels from the reorganized VP unit there, and from newly inducted personnel. The personnel of the 5th VP Bereitschaft were told that within three months the reorganization and redesignation of VP units and the activation of new units will be completed on the pattern of the wartime T/O strength of units of the former German Armed Forces. (4)
5. Under the expansion program of the Volkspolizei two-thirds of the cadre personnel of the VP post in Weissenfels were transferred to Hochstedt (M 52/E 06) for advanced training and activation of new units. A similar measure was taken at the VP post in Apolda but the destination of the detached personnel could not be learned.
6. The individual Kommandos of the 5th VP Bereitschaft held field exercises, including a night march and night exercises, in the **Schulpforte** (M 52/J 88)-Freyburg (M 52/J 89) area between 1 and 21 July 1950. During the exercises each Kommando was divided into two companies. The Kommandos were billeted at **Schulpforte** during the training. The training period of the 1st Kommando lasted from noon on 1 July 1950 to the night of 7 July 1950; that of the 2nd Kommando from noon on 8 July 1950 to the night of 14 July 1950; that of the 3rd Kommando from noon on 15 July to the night of 21 July 1950.

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Comments.

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- (1) With the exception of Polizeirat Meisel, a previous report listed different officers as belonging to the unit. See (Police) [REDACTED] However, such changes are possible in view of the great turn-over in VP personnel.
- (2) The 1st VP Bereitschaft (arty) is carried in Apolda. Bereitschaftspolizei units (alert police) in Weimar have not been confirmed. An increase in motor vehicle stocks, partly by Soviet motor vehicles, was indicated in newspaper dispatches and reports from several VP posts.
- (3) All motor vehicle numbers belong to the Landespolizei of Land Saxony/Anhalt, the first two digits, 04, indicating Land Saxony/Anhalt and the last two digits, 58, indicating Kreis Merseburg-Weissenfels.
- (4) In early July 1950 an untested source reported that a secret document of the Ministry of State Security stated the build-up of a people's army by mass inductions and military reorganization was scheduled to be completed by 1 September 1950. It was also reported in early July 1950, that FDJ functionaries had talked of the activation of a people's army of 400,000 men, organized into five army corps to be completed, by the fall of 1950. Since it is impossible to expand the poorly equipped Bereitschaftspolizei which is now estimated at 70,000 men to such an extent in so short a time, the information is considered an exaggerated rumor. However, it is true that a gradual but limited increase in personnel, armament and motor vehicle equipment is being effected, and that the increased propaganda efforts for the Volkspolizei may indicate the planned build-up of an efficient army.

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